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8an Francisco Minstreis.

Tony Pastor's New Theater.—Variety.

Union Square Theater.—"Miss Multon."

WALLACK'S THEATER.—" All for Her."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—"Fonst." Miss Kellogg.
ACADEMY OF DESIGN.—Exhibition of Water Colors.
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New-Dork Daily Tribune. FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1877.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.-The Chinese have suspended commercial intercourse with Russia. - Blanchette, convicted of causing the St. Hyacinthe fire, has been sentenced to imprisonment for seven years. Gen. Diaz has sent \$300,000 to Vera Cruz. to be remitted in part payment of the American debt. ____ A fire in the Stonehill colliery, Bolton, has caused the death of 15 miners. == Turkish Embassador has asked Count Andrassy to act as mediator between Turkey and Servia and Montenegro.

Domestic.-The compromise plan is not regarded favorably in the Connecticut and Kausas Legislatures; Democrats at Washington are beginning to be dissatisfied, and there will be opposition in the House. - The Washington Chronicle has suspended and the owners of The Burlington Hawk-Eye will start a paper in its place. ____ Senator Woodin's resolutions on the electoral count were debated in the New-York Senate. The Republican members of the New-Jersey Legislature renominated Senator Frelinghuysen. One indecisive vote was taken in the Legislature.

Congress.-Petitions and memorials in favor of the Compromise bill were received in both Houses. In the Senate Mr. Sherman speke against the bill and Mr. Conkling in its favor. In the House the report of the Committee on Privileges was under consideration, and Mr. Seelye spoke against and Mr. Tucker for it.

CITY AND SUBURBAN .- A committee of citizens conferred with the Mayor and Controller in regard to economical administration, and resolutions with that object were adopted. - Parke God win made an address on the political situation. - Gen. Smith sent a statement to the Controller regarding the obstacles to clearing the streets of snow. = Gold, 1063, 1063, 1063, Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 94 cents. Stocks irregular and excited, closing feverish.

THE WEATHER,-THE TRIBUNE'S local observations indicate a partly cloudy and slightly warmer day. Thermometer yesterday, 26°, 32°, 23°, At midnight, 20°.

The new gentlemen's fashion of shooting at ladies who decline proposals of marriage received a severe check yesterday. Judge Gildersleeve decorated its latest votary with a sentence to ten years' imprisonment. This will tend to discourage one of the noblest of our national sports.

The capriciousness of the Chinese is seen in their sending an embassy to England at the same time that they prohibit trade with Russia because an explorer has been observed surveying their northern frontier. This meonsistency is worthy of a people who build railroads abroad but will not tolerate them at

Public interest in the affairs of the Continental Life Insurance Company is fanned by the strenuous opposition which the receiver makes to the appointment of a referee. If the contest is carried on by the receiver at the expense of the broken concern, the unhappy policy-holders will have to pay the cost of both sides of the litigation.

A new theory of the Glen Cove explosion is now advanced. The notion is that Dr. Wilie prepared the contents of the boiler with a view to having it blow up, intending by such means to commit suicide. Although this theory is not very strongly supported, some circumstances lend it color, and it certainty hightens the horror and mystery.

Gen. Diaz gives proof of his willingness to accept the obligations of the Mexican Republic by sending \$300,000 in part payment of the sum of \$3,975,124 awarded to American claimants by the Joint Commission. The lawless character of his Government is, however. manifested in the fine of \$150,000 imposed upon a banking firm for failing to comply with a railroad contract. Arbitrary acts of this kind will bring discredit on the Provisional Government, and ought to retard its recognition.

New-Jersey chooses her Senator to-day. The

of taste, perhaps, but we had never is no certainty that he will ride into higher supposed that the Democrats in any office over the ruins of rings, but he will enjoy adjacent State could make the folly of their the lasting gratitude of all our citizens and brethren in Connecticut seem like wisdom. hold a high and honorable place in the history Yet the people who chose Mr. Eaton were of a debt-beridden city. wise in their generation compared with those who threaten to choose Mr. McPherson.

Finding they have no favor to expect from Russia, the Turks are striving to induce Count Andrassy, the Austrian Chancellor, to act as mediator between them and the allied princes of Servia and Montenegro. They doubtless derive some encouragement from the recent declaration of Kossuth, that it is the duty of all good Hungarians to accept the union with Austria and combine with her in resisting the aggressive policy of Russia. Although the ex-Dictator has been till now the irreconcilable enemy of Austria, his words will be heeded at Vienna as well as at Pesth, especially as he is likely to reenter the Hungarian Parliament. The keen sense which the Turks have of foreign antipathies may enable them this time to find a diplomatic ally.

Mr. C. C. Norvell, the Editor of the defunct Republic, gains a triumph after all in the judgment just rendered against him. An effort had been made to hold him solely responsible for the debts of The Republic Printing Company. Instead, he succeeds in having his associates, the Hon. T. C. Platt and Mr. E. B. Wesley, made jointly responsible with him. Mr. Bruce will get his money, Mr. Norvell will not have to raise all of it, and Mr. Platt and Mr. Wesley have paid dear for their ill-considered venture in New-York journalism.

Gen. Eckert has surrendered his dispatches. He has made a mistake, and we think he will live to regret it. At the same time there are probably very few who expected him to resist the demands of Congress after the larger company had yielded. The entire community may now take notice that the telegraph companies do not keep the secrets of their patrons. Those who have matters to communicate which they do not want Fernando Wood and Ben Butler to pry into, will use a three-cent stamp and patronize the post-office. When the telegraph companies devise some secure method-such as that of destroying the originals of all dispatches, but returning certified copies to the senders-for preserving the secrecy of dispatches and yet making themselves responsible for the accuracy of their transmission, the public may use the telegraph again with more confidence and freedom.

Secretary Robeson surprises his friends as well as his foes by the completeness of the vindication he has secured. In a hostile House, in the midst of the bitterest partisan feeling, on the very day after Mr. Fernando Wood proposes to impeach the President, the Judiciary Committee unanimously resolves that the charges against the Secretary of the Navy are not sustained, that there is no ground for impeachment, and that the whole subject should be dismissed. In times past THE TRIBUNE has had occasion to criticise Mr. Robeson severely, but it has given no credence to the malicious charges trumped up in this partisan persecution by the House Naval Committee, and it long ago said with reference to the principal charge (that affecting the account with Jay Cooke, McCulloch & Co.) that Mr. Robeson acted preeisely as a first-class business man would dorecognized the situation, cut red tape, and secured his claim. Mr. Robeson now has the satisfaction of finding a tribunal of his political enemies certifying to the same thing. His great trouble seems to have been that he had wicked partners. Henceforth it is fair to presume that the Cattells will find business with the Navy Department less profitable.

The Compromise bill is still the single theme in Legislatures, exchanges, and the halls of Congress. The chief feature of the discussions in Washington yesterday was Senator Conkling's able speech in favor of the bill, in which he declared that he was but restating, after careful review, the conclusions he arrived at years ago. He upheld the power of Congress to ascertain and verify electoral votes, insisted that no power to count the votes could be implied from the power to open, and defended United States by "a President of the Senate at length the constitutionality of the bill. There were other speeches in both houses. Among them was that of Mr. Sherman, who precisely the same form was followed at submade several new points against the bill. He made plain the value of Mr. Edmunds's pleasant fiction about the geographical selection of the Supreme Court Judges by showing that if this theory was correct, "all of that vast region | Constitution here given was never seriously 'lying between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River had been excluded from the count." He held that the commission was " not authorized under the judicial power of the "Constitution," that its members, not also members of Congress, were not nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, as the practice had been, and that its formation would violate the spirit of the constitutional probibition against the acceptance by Congressmen of offices created during their Congressional term.-The Legislatures seem less favorable to the scheme than they were. The Connecticut Senate has reconsidered its vote in favor of the bill, and the Kansas Legislature is expected to declare against it.

The municipal conference yesterday was a remarkable gathering, both in the character of the men who composed it and in their earnest determination to bring about a thorough reform in the city government. When such men as Mr. Bryant, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Booth, the new Mayor, and the Mayor just retired, set themselves seriously to this work, it is easy to believe that the worst of our troubles are over. The burdens may not at had framed the Constitution perfectly knew once grow lighter, but they will no and truthfully stated its purpose and true longer be heaped by reckless legisla; tion on a people half ignorant, half indifferent as to their own condition. The resolutions of the conference tell the whole story of needed reform. There must be careful, of rights, and "more alarming in its conscconstant retrenchment. Useless offices must be wiped out, extravagant salaries must be cut down, the debt must be funded, the City the one now pending. May we not safely Hall must cease to be a hotel for the luxurious keeping of the workers of Tammany Hall, tion formally given by the very body which and the Departments must no longer serve as framed it, approved by George Washington places where country members of the Legis- himself, and attested by Mr. Pinckney to have lature of both parties can pension off been the deliberate will of the convention in their political adherents. The first step neces- forming, and of the States in adopting that sary to secure a sound business management instrument? Can there be named, in our of the city's affairs is to obtain for it the frame of government, a more explicit and right of self-government, but when that has been wrested from the Legislature much will dience to the ever-shifting demands of selfish yet remain to be done. This prosy work of partisanship, to set aside that original comcutting down expenses, stopping waste, and pact for the benefit of either party? The

likely to send McPherson. It is a matter reputations. If Mayor Ely succeeds in it, there just enough, and safe enough for his successor

THE CONSTITUTIONAL METHOD. Citizens of every class and every opinion have a right to ask that, in the settlement of the Presidential question, the Constitution of the United States shall be scrupulously observed. Only by that course can we hope to arrive at a settlement which shall command the respect and confidence of intelligent men. But what does the Constitution require? There are differences of opinion, as is natural, considering human frailty. It would be too much to expect of many statesmen that they would stoutly adhere to an interpretation which would bring defeat to all their hopes, because they had adopted that interpretation at a time when it was essential to their interests. Accordingly, we find that Democratic Senators, who have hitherto been conspicuous as defenders of State rights, and who stoutly denounced the throwing out of the vote of any State even on the ground that it had rebelled and was not in political relations with the Union, are now among the most zealous in urging the right of one house of Congress to throw out the vote of a State at pleasure. On the other hand, we find Republicans who asserted, during and after the war, hastily, loosely, and almost without limit, the supervisory power of Congress over the returns from the States, and who now uncompromisingly deny the right of Congress to go behind the returns. In these circumstances is it not right for us to look behind these interpretations, shaped by the political interests of recent years, and to accept as true and binding that interpretation which was given to the Constitution by the men who framed at ?

Hundreds of extracts might be made, from debates in convention, documents, and speeches of the early days, proving that the controlling object of the framers of the Constitation, in devising the electoral system, was to remove the Executive as completely as possible from legislative control. But these expressions of the views of individuals, however influential and distinguished, all seem insignificant in authority compared with the formal declaration of the Constitutional Convention as a body, and this, fortunately, we find in the resolution adopted on the 17th of September, 1787. It appears in an appendix to an edition of The Federalist published in 1842, and was adopted under circumstances which give it peculiar weight. The convention had completed its draft of the Constitution, and that instrument had passed from its hands, to be adopted or rejected by the States. Then it was urged that the provision respecting the counting of electoral votes was liable to a construction hostile to the views of those who desired to maintain the independence of the Executive and the rights of the States in the choice of a President. And thereupon, as an interpretation, and, so to speak, a codicil of the Constitution, the very convention which had framed that instrument formally adopted

the following: Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that. as soon as the conventiens of nine States shall have ratified this Constitution, the United States, in Congress assembled, should fix a day on which the electors should be appointed by the States which shall have ratified the same, and a day on which the electors should assemble vote for the President, and the time and place fo mmencing proceedings under this Constitution; that after such publication the electors should be appointed, and the Senators and Representatives elected; that the electors should meet on the day fixed for the election o the President, and should transmit their votes, certified, signed, sealed, and directed, as the Constitution requires, to the Secretary of the United States in Congress semblid: that the Senators and Representatives she convene at the time and place assigned; that the Senators hould appoint a President of the Senate for the sole purpose of receiving, opening, and counting the rotes for President; and that, after he shall be chosen, the Congress, together with the President, should, without dear proceed to execute this Constitution.

With this authoritative interpretation, the Constitution was submitted to the States. With this understanding of its meaning it was adopted; and no one can review the history of that time without the conviction that, had any interpretation less favorable to the rights of the States been given to it, the Constitution could not have been accepted. Upon this interpretation, also, the Constitution was enforced at the first election, and George Washington, who had signed the resolution above quoted, was declared the first President of the for the sole purpose of receiving, opening, and counting the votes." Nor is this all, for quent elections; a proposal once made in the House to assume a limited power over the counting of the votes was in that House voted down, and until 1801 the interpretation of the disputed. The most concise and authoritative statement of the opinion of the framers of the Constitution, next to the resolution quoted, is found in the speech of Mr. Charles Pinckney of South Carolina, an eminent member of the Convention, who said, in discussing the Electoral bill proposed but defeated in 1801:

It is a serious invasion of some of the most importan rights solemnly and explicitly reserved by the Constitution to the State Legislatures; it is a bill more alarming in its consequences than even the Alien or Sedition law. . . Knowing that it was the intention of the Constitution to make the President completely independent of the Fedcral legislation. I weil remember it was the object, as it is at present not only the spirit but the letter of that instrument, to give to Congress no interference in, or control over, the election of a President. * • It never was intended, nor could it have been safe, in the Constitution, to have given to Congress thus assembled in convention the right to object to any vote, or even to question whether they were constitutionally or properly given. This right of determining on the manner in which the electors shall vote, the inquiry into the qualifications, and the guards necessary to prevent disqualified or improper persons from voting, and to insure the votes being legally given, rests and is exclusively vested in the State

Legislatures. No just man will doubt that this able and distinguished member of the convention which meaning. Nor was he contradicted; and though the bill had passed the House, it was defeated in the Senate. Yet this bill, which Mr. Pinckney declared a "serious invasion" quences than even the Alien or Sedition "law," was incomparably less dangerous than stand upon an interpretation of the Constitusolemn compact? Have we any right, in obe-State which has heretofore sent Randolph and serving the people at the expense of the poli- Constitution thus interpreted made George

in 1877 1

COMPROMISING WHAT?

We cannot suppose that Republican Senators and Representatives who support the Compromise Commission bill realize what it is that they surrender and why any concession should be demanded of them. Democrats who discover in this scheme the only chance for the success of their candidate may perhaps be judged with mercy if under strong temptation they expose the country to a grave constitutional danger and give up the right of the States to choose their own electors without Federal interference. But the conduct of Republicans is not so easily accounted for. The propriety of the action of the President of the Senate in counting the electoral votes went unquestioned during the first quarter century of our national life. From 1789 to 1821 there was no dispute as to his right, no suggestion that the function had not been appropriately committed to him. "Be it known, that the underwritten, President of the Senate pro tempore, did, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and count " all the votes,"-so ran the official notification which the President of the Senate was anthorized to make to the persons upon whom the choice of the electors fell. That was the form up to 1821, and it was revived in 1825. It was never pretended that the power committed to this high officer was too great to be lodged in the hands of a single man. It is not pretended that the power ever was abused. But now it is suddenly discovered that the interpretation of the Constitution under which our unsuspicious forefathers acted so long without trouble or discord, is fraught with appalling perils. Counting votes is too delicate and important a function to be left with any one man. What then do the Constitution tinkers propose to do? Why, to take it away from him and give it to another man.

We have already shown that the compromise plan amounts to nothing more than this. Seven Republicans are to sit on one side of the table and vote in the Republican interest. Seven Democrats are to sit on the other and vote in the Democratic interest. An odd judge is to sit at the head of the table and decide everything. The fourteen opposing and mutually neutralizing members are added for style rather than use: it is the fifteenth man who holds the result in his hands. And who is he? The presiding officer of the Senate is presumably one of the most dignified and honorable members of the highest legislative body known to the American Constitution. He is almost invariably a man in whom the country has a well-founded confidence. He performs his duty in the full sight of the nation and under a lively sense of responsibility. The unknown arbiter contemplated by the bill, if not selected by chance, is most likely to be chosen for the looseness of his opinions-or, in other words, for the weakness of his head. He will be answerable only to his own conscience. He has no constituents to judge him, and it has perhaps escaped the attention of Congress that the only person from whose favor he can expect promotion is the man whom his decision

will place in the Presidency. To justify the transfer of the function of counting from the President of the Senate to this Great Unknown, some grave consideration should certainly be pleaded. But there is none. The change is demanded by the Demoerats only because they believe that Mr. Tilden is defeated without it, and it is yielded by the Republicans only because the Democrats demand it. On the one side it is a desperate clutch at the last chance of power; on the other it is a surrender to vulgar clamor. We have never been able to discover in the speeches and essays of Mr. Tilden's friends a single argument against the constitutionality of the old mode of counting that deserved serious refutation. We have heard little but threats-threats of war, threats of riotous personal petitious, threats of the revolutionary inauguration of a contesting President by the sole authority of the House of Representatives. It is to these threats that the Kepublican supporters of the bill-have yielded. Frightened at the flaming eves of this hollow pumpkin which the Democrats have rigged as a specter of war by aid of a tallow caudle and a bloody sheet, they abandon the rights they were appointed to guard and run away trembling. The Compromise bill is doubtless to be passed, but at least let us understand what we are doing and what it is that our Congressmen are going to surrender. If we are to administer the Government on the principle of "Anything for a quiet "life," it will save trouble to refrain from obscuring that policy by false pretenses.

THE STATE SURVEY.

New-York is, at the present time, the worst surveyed State in proportion to its wealth in the world. Such is the statement of the Board of Commissioners for the State Survey in their report to the Legislature. James T. Gardner. the Director of the Survey, gives a few facts bearing on this point that are somewhat startling. When, two or three years ago, Verplanck Colvin, in charge of a survey of the Adirondack region, mentioned instances where the boundary lines were laid down on the maps two or three miles out of the true position, so that taxes had been paid to certain counties upon land that those counties did not include; when he pointed out that there were great mountains not represented on any map, and on the other hand some mountains represented on the maps where really there were only lakes or valleys,-with a number of such strange facts before us, there was at least the comfort that the Adirondack region is very wild, and perhaps no great harm is caused by its surveying lines being equally wild. But no such comfort is to be extracted from the report of the State Survey Board. The City of Buffalo cannot be classed as a wilderness at present, especially since Mr. Olmsted has laid out its public park, and the city corporation has built some remarkable structures in connection therewith. The Director of the State Survey says, however, that the position of Buffalo, on the best map of the State that is published, is in error about three miles. Even Albany is put nearly one mile out of the way. Elmira and Plattsburg are about as much misplaced as Buffalo. Out of sixty corners of counties examined, only two were authenticated by monuments. As to all the rest, their boundaries are very uncertain. Lawsuits are constantly arising in which these boundaries are called in question, and the courts decide upon the evidence which very aged men can furnish as to their recollections of what used to be the

The report states that the evils growing out of imperfect survey far exceed anything that had been suspected. Large numbers of persons, of whom women form a great proportion, have been induced in New-York as in

landmarks, and where they were placed.

railroads with a view to benefit their property near the line of the road. The re-port states that the projects would in many instances have obtained no support if the maps and surveys of the State had shown the obstacles that those railroads would have to encounter. Millions of dollars have thus been thrown away on injudicious schemes which only made greater losses if the roads were actually built, since the construction was carried on over hills where valleys might have been utilized, and as soon as a road commenced its traffic it began to do business at a loss. The total waste thus occasioned is estimated in the report at \$40,000,000. If reliance can be placed on these estimates, they may be fairly offset against the expense of the survey, to which Gov. Robinson has forcibly objected; an expense of \$20,000 a year for

ten years. WHAT SORROW COSTS THE CITY. Pale Death, as the Roman poet tells us, knocks equally at the doors of palaces and of cottages. We are enabled positively to state that His Majesty of the Terrors pays the same polite attention at the City Hall. This, however, is important specially because it is found out that his visits are almost as expensive as if he were a Japanese Embassador or a Grand Duke of Russia. The city is now defendant in a suit brought by an enterprising person who, for the sable gloves, the melancholy crape, and other incidental evidences of anguish furnished for the obsequies of the late Superintendent Jourdan, wants the sum of \$750. The pain felt upon the demise of Alderman Thomas Connor was not so intense, and the demonstrative -regalia of wretchedness came to only \$550. But when County Auditor Watson was inhumed, the trappings and the suits of woe, costing \$1,085, indicated a lacerated condition of the Aldermanic bosom too painful to be dwelt upon. Ex-Alderman Florence Scannell, on the other hand, was regretted only to the extent of \$558, and the same was true of Alderman Henry Rogers, deceased. Gloves and crape, therefore, for these loved and lost ones cost the City of New-York, or rather will cost it if the plaintiff wins his case, the pathetic sum of \$3,468-almost enough to hang the heavens

with black. We suppose it must soothe the struggles and sufferings of a moribund alderman to know that he will be so expensively lamented. At the same time we hardly see why the taxpayers should be compelled to foot these bills of befeavement. It has indeed happened that the final departure of an alderman gave the tax-paying citizens occasion for putting on anything but mourning; though we do not say that this is true of all these defunct worthies. We are far from thinking that in any case it would be in better taste to ring the bells and hoist the national flag at the peak; but this we are sure would be as true an indication of the real feeling as a mile of carriages behind carriages, one hundred thousand yards of crape, and one thousand boxes of the best Paris gloves.

There is some opposition, we suppose, to the payment of these dismal bills. It is a delicate matter to say anything about, but we may venture to remind the Aldermen that if they discard the expensive use of gloves, we shall all see how clean are their honorable hands.

IRON IN RAILWAY STRUCTURES.

During the first few days after the disaster to the Ashtabula bridge, there appeared frequent and very positive statements in many newspapers to the effect that extreme cold always made iron brittle. On the other hand a few equally positive statements were made, based upon certain European experiments, affirming that the strength of wrought iron was not in the least reduced by cold. THE TRIBUNE mentioned at the time the results of certain experiments in this country. From these it seems evident that bad iron may become brittle in cold weather, while there is little if any danger of the kind with the best of iron. The testimony thus far obtained at the inquest. and before the legislative committee, furnishes already a variety of explanations respecting the disaster. There is some evidence that a part of the wrecked train was off the track; some evidence that the plan of the bridge was of doubtful merit, it being an attempt to substitute iron for wood in a method of construction for which wood was better suited; some evidence that the bridge, after the metal was furnished, was put in place or "erected" by an ignorant and incompetent man; and some evidence that after the bridge was built and tested it was allowed to fall to pieces through the culpable neglect of the railroad company. Any one or all of these circum stances, if proved, may afford reason enough for the ruin of the bridge, without any question as to the iron which it was made of; but the fact will remain that a large proportion of the public puts only a doubting faith in iron bridges, and really thinks them dangerous when they have stood many years, and especially during frosty veather.

It rarely happens that a deep-rooted popular belief is wholly mistaken. It is more than likely to be founded in a half truth. When farmers hang their new scythes outside the barn in order that the steel may rust and thereby improve its temper; when for a similar reason some workmen bury their tools in the earth while not in use; when a blacksmith picks the oldest iron in his shop for the choicest work, there is certainly evidence, so far as popular belief can be alleged as testimony, that age and exposure improve the metal. Men who have studied the subject give a reason for the improvement of iron or steel in such instances; they say that the impurities of the metal are brought to the surface and thrown off by slow rusting. Prof. Thurston has cited the instance of the rails on the Camden and Amboy road, laid down in 1832. They were then brittle and of poor quality. Taken up in recent years they were found to be excellent stuff, and when sent to the rolling mills furnished bar iron of unusual excellence. This and similar instances seem to set at naught the theory that the vibration of passing trains causes iron after a while to crystallize. Robert Stephenson and John A. Roebling distinctly recorded their disbelief in the crystallization theory. William Fairbairn, on the other hand, yielded a modified assent to it after opposing it. But the report of the Hoosac Tunnel Commissioners presented a fact that could not be set aside. The rock-drilling engines used in that work gradually began to fail in strength. After the metals used in these machines had given millions upon millions of blows, they began to granulate, and lost cohesiveness. In certain French experiments which combined torsion with shock, it was found that 129,000 blows had no perceptible effect upon a new axle; 338,000 blows caused a change in texture that was seen by the naked eye; after 78,000,000 shocks the metal, when broken, was found to be scaly within, like pewter. A testing machine long Stockton and Frelinghuysen seems now ticians, is not one at which men make showy Washington President. Is it not good enough, other States to invest their money in projected used in the Navy-Yard at Washington, and

fitted to bear a strain of 300 tons, broke down at last with only 100 tons. Its fracture showed well-defined crystals. Against such facts are to be put proofs post-

tive that iron tested by Prof. Thurston and by Commander Beardslee in widely differing experiments gained strength and absolutely stiffened under strain. In one of the Beardsles experiments iron that broke under a strain of 68,000 pounds was so improved by its treatment that it sustained 88,000 pounds without fracture on the following day. Equally conflicting is the evidence about the effect of cold. The late Mr. Roebling kept samples of iron in snow and ice for a lengthened period, and tested them while cold both by weights and blows without finding the least deterioration of strength. The Railroad Commissioners of Massachusetts in their report for 1874 scout the idea that cold makes iron or steel brittle, and declare that it is not the rule that the most breakages occur on the coldest days. German railway statistics for 1870 give, however, two-fifths more axles broken in the cold than in the warm half of the year. In Wood's treatise on the resistance of metals, where most of the foregoing facts are stated, there are mentioned several curious instances of the sudden breakage of iron, and an abstract is given of the experiments of Mr. Sandberg of London, which showed that ordinary iron rails had at 10° Fah. only a third or a fourth of the strength they possessed at 84°. We have cited experiments which seem at first sight squarely contradictory, and it must be admitted that much yet remains to be learned before either view can be held with certainty. Out of the mass of evidence one fact alone remains unquestionable : that the best of iron and steel is the least likely to give way under strains. shocks, or changes of temperature,

In connection with the debate now going on in Congress upon the Compromise Electoral bill, the transactions of the Electoral Colleges and the history of the proceedings at previous countings of the electoral vote become of immediate importance and interest. The simplest, most accurate, and by far the most concise account of these matters is given in THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1877, where, within four small pages, is compressed more information than equal space often holds. Besides this, the popular vote of each State for President for the last fifty years is given, and other facts necessary to an understanding of the way in which Presidents have been elected for nearly a century. As for the other questions involved,-the vote of the disputed States, the enactments and rules of Congress,-they are all given in full, without favor or prejudice to either party, together with complete election returns from all the States and Territories. In short, it may be safely said that THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC is an extremely handy book to have around the house or the office " about these days."

PERSONAL.

Prof. Benjamin Silliman is very ill at his me in New-Haven.

Ex-Senator Fenton and his daughter belong to Florida for the rest of the Winter.

Senator Conkling, say the letter-writers, has bleached appearance and a gloomy expressi

The statue of Juarez was cast in San Francisco on Saturday—the first work of the kind ever under taken in California, and therefore memorabic.

The Dr. Quincy who is about to marry the Hon. Charles Francis Adams's only daughter, is the youngest son of Edmund Quincy, now living in Dedham. Mr. T. B. Aldrich is in a position to answer the Tapperian question, "What is fame?" A Washington newspaper reprints some of his verses, and owishing credits them to "T. Baldrick."

Mr. John J. Anderson, the author of school histories, desires it to be known that he is not the person with the same name who is now acting as receiver of the Continental Life insurance Company. The play which Mr. Bret Harte and Mr. Mark

Twain are writing together is to belong to Mr. Charles Parslee, the Hop Sing of "Two Men of Saudy Bar." His character is, of course, to be that of a Chmaman. The Rothschilds are said to be worth-all of

them together—the agreeable sum of \$3,400,000,000 One of them, Beron Edward, has just purchased at auc tion a curious piece of furniture, covered with plates of Sèvres, for 700,000 francs.

Senator Blaine found a beautiful bouquet on his desk in the Senate chamber when he first appeared there the other day. He looked bale, hearty, and happy, Mrs. Blaine will not go to Washington this Winter. She evidently did not care to go until her husband held bis seat by the election of the Legislature rather than the temporary appointment of a Governor, and as there are correctly six weeks of the session left, doesn't think it worth while now to break up the establishment in Augusta and remove to Washington for so short a period

Mr. Escosura, the Spanish artist, has done a graceful and a timely thing. Before sailing for Paris be left \$100 in gold for the Metropolitan Museum in this city "as a slight token of his appreciation of the kindeas of the American people and of his interest in the

Mr. George L. Catlin, who uses the columns of The Commercial Advertiser to distribute to the American press the witty paragraphs for which he sometimes gets credit and sometimes doesn't, has been elected President of the Paragraphers' Association. The members saip consists of paragraph writers for the daily journals.

A Western poet says that he has waited for some bard of powerful song To pour music on the throng. Kin to those sweet strains that touchol us

Valentine, the Virginia sculptor, while at unton last Fall, was charmed with the singing, by a tittle blind girt, of a song in which occurred the line, When shall I behold thy face i" The music, the words, and the touching presence of the little girl, with her hands put up as if in mute appeal, made a picture upon the artist's mind which he has reproduced in marble at The Hon. Thomas Jones Yorke, a Congress-

man from New-Jersey from 1837 to 1839 and from 1841 to 1843, was on the floor of the House on Monday, booking strong and well kept. Mr. Yorke was a candidate for election to the XXVIIh Congress, but he was not admitted, although he went to Washington with the broad scal of his state. Fernando Wood was the only member

Dr. Mary Walker promptly appeared at the Woman Suffrage Convention at Washington last week. The first intimation of her presence in the half was herself standing on the pintform and waving her arms, as abe gave forth treasonable and blood-curdling opinions of the Constitution. Her bloomer costume was of som-ber black, with a punk silk kerebici around her neck to give the necessary touch of color to her artistic outfit.

Mr. Moody will be entertained by Mr. Darant, the founder of Wellesley College, during his stay in Boston. The singers accepted for the Talermacle meet ings will be divided tuto five complete choirs. At the first rehearsal of the consolidated choirs there were about 1,000 singers present. Prof. Econ Touriee, Derector of the New-Eugland Conservatory of Music, and Dean of the Boston University College of Music, is Iran-

Mrs. Browning, writing of her religious views in a recently published private letter, said: "The sector tarianism of the National churches, to which I do not belong, and of the Dissenting hodies, to which I do. stand together before me on a protty just level of detests ion. Truth (as far as each th'uker can apprehend aproll. It is a lar or comprehending—make my idea-my hope of a church. But the Christianity of the world is apt to wander from Carist and the hope of Han. Major J. W. Powell lectured on the Indians

efore the talkative Radical Club of Boston lately, and at the end said that he would conclude with a wise bulian at the end said that he would conclude with a was proverb, which he gave in Indian sing-song that by no means detracted from its pub;

Let a man tails a very long time,
Major Powell had no headtation in declaring that the Indians must of necessity dio out as a ruce.

"Olive Harper," who is now lecturing on the "Tame Turk," is described as being a little above the average hight, six ng and healthy, and very active in spite of a lameness wintch has compelled her to use eratches during the past six years. Her head is finely developed and well belanced, and her eyes are bright and penetrating. She is attenuously opposed to woman sufrage, but holds strongly to woman's right to labor and to be paid for her labor. She published a book coul-tied "Twenty Years in California," some time ago, and